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Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

As indicated below, Applicant is amending Claims 52, 55-60, 65, 68-73 and 78-86 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 53, 54, 61-64, 66, 67, 74-77 and 87 remain as previously presented.

1.-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data ~~operating on a first network device and a second network device~~, the method comprising:

providing a management software component that operates on ~~[[the]]~~ a first network device;

providing a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component that operate on at least a second network device, ~~and wherein the media software components [[are]]~~ being communicatively coupled to a storage device storing data;

selecting a media software component from among the plurality of media software components using the management software component;

controlling the selected media software component using the management software component;

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component which comprises at least one software module configured to control backup and retrieval of data to the storage device; and

recording a physical address on the storage device ~~where data is located~~ using the at least one software module which comprises an indexing software module configured to record a physical address on the storage device ~~where the data is located~~.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device, and to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device using the second software

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

module which comprises a data mover software module configured to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device and physical media of the storage device using the second software module which comprises a library software module configured to control the physical media of the storage device.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage device using the management software component which comprises at least ~~[[one]]~~ a second software module configured to coordinate usage of the storage device.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises an application software module configured to store backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises an archive software module configured to track the location of data across library media.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising managing system processes using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a jobs software module configured to manage system processes.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising tracking usage of the storage device using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a media usage software module configured to track usage of the storage device.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

comprises a data transfer software module configured to coordinate the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising providing a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the client software component operates on a third network device.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using the selected media software component.

65. (Currently Amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data ~~operating across a network containing a plurality of network devices~~, the method comprising:

providing a management software component that operates on a first network device of ~~[[the]]~~ a plurality of network devices;

providing a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to the management software component, ~~wherein the media software components~~ [[are]] being communicatively coupled to a storage device storing data, [[and]] the media software components [[are]] being further capable of controlling backups to the storage device;

selecting a media software component from among the plurality of media software components using the management software component;

controlling the selected media software component using the management software component;

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component which comprises at least one software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device; and

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

recording a physical address on the storage device ~~where data is located~~ using the at least one software module which comprises an indexing software module configured to record a physical address on the storage device ~~where the data is located~~.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software module configured to control, and to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device using the second software module which comprises a data mover software module configured to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage device.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage device using the selected media software component which comprises at least a second software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the storage device and physical media of the storage device using the second software module which comprises a library software module configured to control the physical media of the storage device.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage device using the management software component which comprises at least ~~[[one]]~~ a second software module configured to coordinate usage of the storage device.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises an application software module configured to store backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises an archive software module configured to track the location of data across library media.

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising managing system processes using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a jobs software module configured to manage system processes.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising tracking usage of the storage device using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a media usage software module configured to track usage of the storage device.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, further comprising coordinating the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a data transfer software module configured to coordinate the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage device.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising providing a client software component, communicatively coupled to the management software component and the selected media software component, that controls backups of a particular network device.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the client software component operates on the second network device.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the client software component operates on a third network device.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using the selected media software component.

78. (Currently Amended) A method for backup and retrieval of data ~~in a network comprising a plurality of computing devices, the plurality of computing devices comprising a first computing device and a second computing device~~, the method comprising:

providing a management software component that operates on [[the]] a first computing device in a network, the management software component controlling a plurality of media software components communicatively coupled to

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

the management software component, ~~wherein~~ the media software components ~~[[are]]~~ being communicatively coupled to at least one backup device storing data; ~~[[and]]~~

providing a client software component that controls backups of any computing device, the client software component communicatively coupled to the management software component and the media software components;

controlling backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device using the media software components, which control the at least one backup device each of the media software components comprising at least one software module configured to control the backup and retrieval of data to the at least one backup device;

recording a physical address on the backup device ~~where data is located~~ using the at least one software module which comprises an indexing software module configured to record a physical address on the backup device ~~where the data is located~~; and

operating at least one of either the media software components or the client software components on ~~[[the]]~~ a second computing device in the network.

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 78, further comprising controlling backup and retrieval of data to the storage at least one backup device using the media software components which each comprise at least a second software module configured to control backup and retrieval of data to the storage at least one backup device, and to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage at least one backup device using the second software module which comprises a data mover software module configured to manage the physical transfer of data to and from the storage at least one backup device.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 78, further comprising backup and retrieval of data to the storage at least one backup device using the media software components which each comprise at least a second software module configured to control backup and retrieval of data to the storage at least one backup device, and controlling physical media of the storage at least one backup device using the second

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

software module which comprises a library software module configured to control the physical media of the storage at least one backup device.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 78, further comprising coordinating usage of the storage at least one backup device using the management software component which comprises at least ~~[[one]]~~ a second software module configured to coordinate usage of the storage at least one backup device.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising storing backup and retrieval preferences of a software application using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises an application software module configured to store backup and retrieval preferences of a software application.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising tracking the location of data across library media using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises an archive software module configured to track the location of data across library media.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising managing system processes using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a jobs software module configured to manage system processes.

85. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising tracking usage of the storage at least one backup device using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a media usage software module configured to track usage of the storage at least one backup device.

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, further comprising coordinating transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage at least one backup device using the ~~at least one~~ second software module which comprises a data transfer software module configured to coordinate the transfer of data between system software components, software modules, and the storage at least one backup device.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 78, further comprising communicating the physical address to the management software component using the indexing software module.

Appl. No. : 09/354,063
Filed : July 15, 1999

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Colbert for the personal interview extended to Marcus S. Muller and Applicant's counsel, John R. King and Christian A. Fox, on December 5, 2006. The following provides a summary of the interview:

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None

Identification of Claims Discussed

Claims 52, 65 and 78.

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

None

Proposed Amendments

Applicant proposed clarifying claims in view of the suggestions provided in the August 18, 2006 Office Action.

Results of Interview

Applicant was requested to submit the proposed amendments in a response to the August 18, 2006 Office Action.